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AF/3727

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Art MALIN et al.

Serial No.: 09/480,061

Filed: January 10, 2000

For: **ZIPPER STRIP AND METHOD OF POSITIONING THE STRIP
TRANSVERSE LONGITUDINAL AXIS**

Examiner: Joseph C. Merek

Art Unit: 3727

Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch LLP
685 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017
212.297.5800**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**RECEIVED**

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SIR:

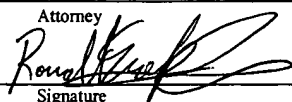
Enclosed please find a Notice from the Japanese Patent Office with a mailing date of February 17, 2004. According to the enclosed translation, an "offer of information for patentability" was filed with the Japanese Patent Office on December 12, 2003.

A PTO-1449 form is enclosed along with copies of all documents provided to Applicant's U.S. counsel.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313, on March 29, 2004

Ronald E. Brown

Attorney

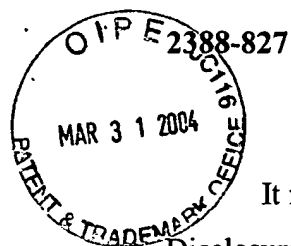


Signature

March 29, 2004

Date of Signature

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-1145, Order No. 769-197 CIP Div 2.



It is respectfully submitted that each item of Information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1145, Order No. 769-197 CIP Div. 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Levy
Registration No. 24,419

Ronald E. Brown
Registration No. 32,200

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